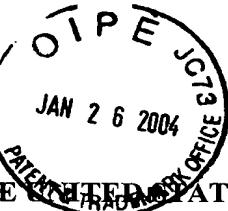


Docket No. 244565US6/H



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Herve LAUNAIS, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/694,853

GAU:

FILED: October 29, 2003

EXAMINER:

FOR: SINGLE-PASS LASER WELDING METHOD OF A T ASSEMBLY OF METALLIC PARTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references cited in the attached French Search Report listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

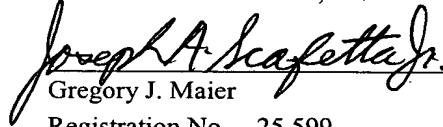
- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Joseph A. Scafetta, Jr.
Registration No. 26, 803

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 05/03)

DOCKET NO.: 244565US6/hc

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Herve LAUNAIS, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/694,853

GROUP:

FILED: October 29, 2003

EXAMINER:

FOR: SINGLE-PASS LASER WELDING METHOD OF A T ASSEMBLY OF
METALLIC PARTS**STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY****Reference AO (DE 199 07 926) on Form PTO 1449:**

This reference describes a method for the manufacture of a welded, three-dimensional vehicle chassis. The different components of this chassis are manufactured by cutting, particularly using a computer-controlled, laser beam cutting apparatus. However, the welding of components positioned perpendicular to one another does not involve one or more laser beams.

Reference AP (DE 195 21 892) on Form PTO 1449:

This reference describes a surface element and a method for obtaining it. In the structure described, the parts are flat and positioned perpendicular to one another having shapes which can be likened to a T. In addition, a laser cutting process is used. Reference is made in vague terms to the use of laser welding without any description being given of the implementation details. Therefore this document is only slightly relevant.

Reference AR (FR 2 789 609) on Form PTO 1449:

This reference relates to the manufacture of a rigid structure obtained by the assembly of sheets or plates perpendicular to one another. Once said sheets are cut, optionally using a laser beam so as to provide positioning slots, they are assembled, then welded or brazed. This document makes no reference to welding using one or more laser beams and it is consequently not relevant.

Reference AS (DE 195 33 831) on Form PTO 1449:

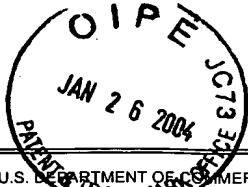
This reference describes a system for fixing in T-form, two metal plates. The procedure involves making holes at the location of the T junction, followed by welding with a filler metal placed in the holes. This document is not relevant because it does not refer to laser beam welding.

Reference AT (EP 1 312 435) on Form PTO 1449:

This reference describes a laser welding process for fixing sheets or plates. Joining takes place by means of slots and tenons, which fit into one another in such a way as to position the parts. This positioning method is also described in other documents. Laser welding is referred to in this document, but its implementation does not appear to be described.

Reference AU (EP 0 890 745) on Form PTO 1449:

This reference describes a method for the manufacture of a blower rotor, e. g. for an exhaust fan. Reference is inter alia made to a laser welding process for the perpendicular welding of two sheets (cf. figs. 2 and 3). However, the number of laser beams or the positioning thereof are not defined. Therefore this document is moderately relevant and has to be taken into consideration in the same way as references AO (DE 199 07 926) and AP (DE 195 21 892).



SHEET OF

Form PTO 1449 (Modified)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 244565US6	SERIAL NO. 10/694,853	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT Herve LAUNAIS, et al.				
		FILING DATE October 29, 2003		GROUP		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
AA		4,691,093	09/01/1987	C. M. BANAS, et al.		
AB		5,483,034	01/09/1996	J. G. W. R. HAVARD, et al.		
AC		6,146,094	11/14/2000	T. OBANA, et al.		
AD						
AE						
AF						
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						
AK						
AL						
AM						
AN						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES	NO
AO		199 07 926	12/07/2000	GERMANY		X
AP		195 21 892	08/08/1996	GERMANY		X
AQ		2 705 603	12/02/1994	FRANCE (with corr. US 5,483,034)		X
AR		2 789 609	08/18/2000	FRANCE		X
AS		195 33 831	01/30/1997	GERMANY		X
AT		1 312 435	05/21/2003	EUROPE		X
AU		0 890 745	01/13/1999	EUROPE (with corr. US 6,146,094)		
AV						
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)						
	AW					
	AX					
	AY					
	AZ				<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached	
Examiner					Date Considered	
<small>*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>						